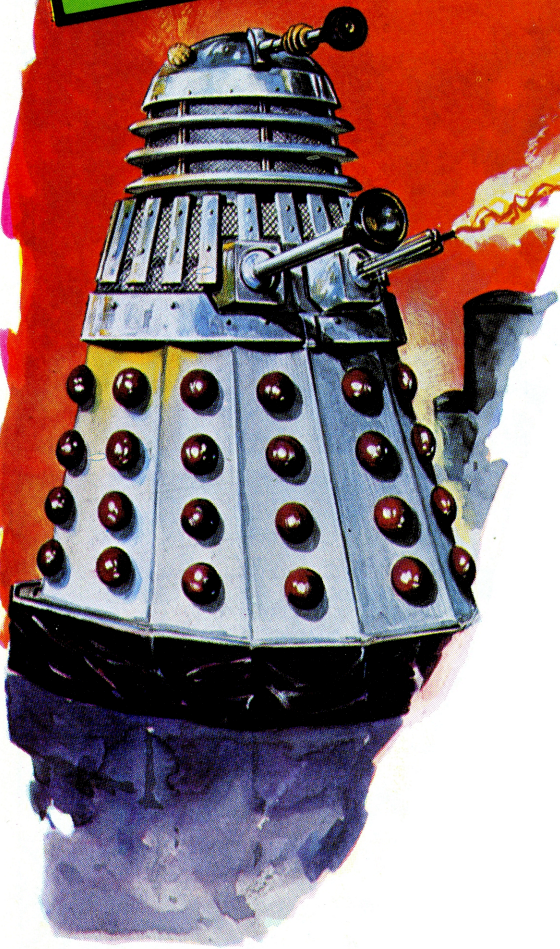


# A BEHIND-THE-SCENES LOOK AT DOCTOR WHO

The following illustrated article looking behind-the-scenes at the making of *Frontier in Space* was published in the Fleetway 1974 *Valiant* Annual.

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**DALEKS, THE INCREDIBLE  
MECHANICAL BEINGS, HAVE THRILLED  
DOCTOR WHO FANS FOR YEARS.  
FOR A SPECIAL BEHIND-THE-SCENES  
LOOK AT THIS INTRIGUING TV  
PROGRAMME TURN TO PAGE 110!**





**A behind-the-scenes  
look at...**

# DOCTOR WHO



**"Exterminate! Exterminate!"** The thin, electronic voices rang round the metallic corridors. Dr. Who and his companion Jo Grant knew what was making the weird, threatening noises—it was the Daleks. These strange beings were hunting the doctor—he was their arch-enemy!

But the Daleks had not *always* been unfriendly machines. They were the result of a neutron war on their native planet, Skaro. During the hostilities, radio-activity was released and this made the Daleks lose the use of their arms and legs. Finally, their bodies too, became useless. All that was left was their brains—which they built into machines for convenience. So, really, a Dalek is not a true being—but just a container. A loud-speaker inside the container transmits any messages from the brain into a crackling, electronic voice. Consequently, the Daleks despise anything that has its own body—especially Dr. Who, who's defeated them so many times!

Yes, the Daleks were a brilliant creation! Their fights with the doctor and their attempts to take over the Earth have thrilled television viewers for

*Photograph by permission of the BBC.*

years. The man really responsible for the Daleks is writer Terry Nation. He wrote them into a **Doctor Who** script seven years ago—but no-one really knew what they were going to look like. Terry Nation thought of the name *Dalek* when he was looking through some of his encyclopaedias. One particular volume covered the letters DAL to LEK. *The Daleks were born!*

But the amazing Daleks have been only one of the hazards which have faced the adventurous Dr. Who in his travels to various dimensions in time and planets in the universe! Remember the Sea Devils? The Ogrons? Hepesh the High Priest and in particular, the doctor's regular opponent—the **Master**? All have proved themselves worthy opponents of Dr. Who. But no matter what the



enemy, the doctor has proved himself a unique hero—a legend in his own time (as well as in many other times)!

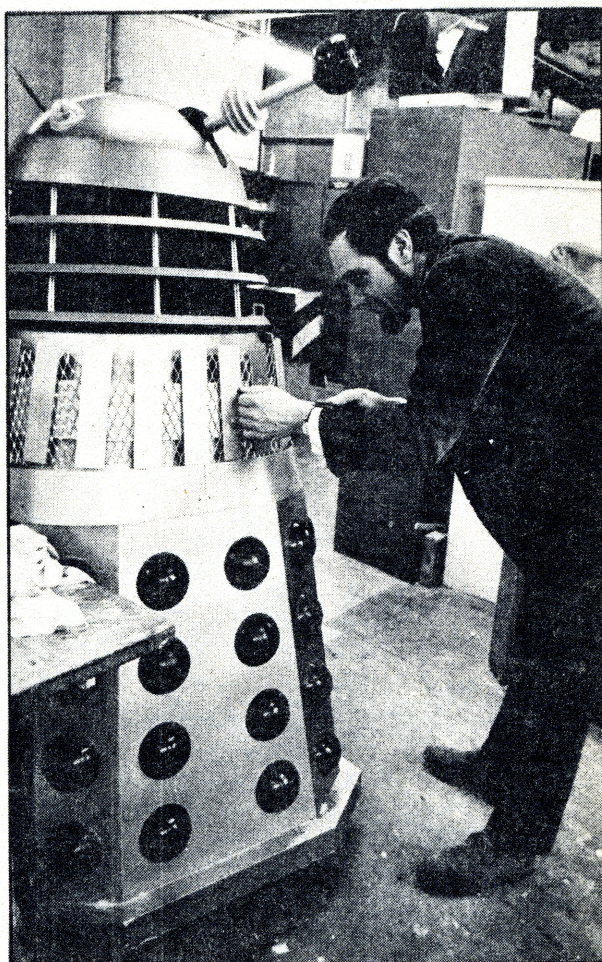
And the adventures of the doctor aren't only followed in Britain. His fame is world wide! One of the big American airlines gives a guide to tourists visiting Britain which tells them what television shows to look out for on British TV. Top of the list is *Doctor Who*!

Many other nations of the globe have also thrilled to this intriguing programme. It has been televised in no less than *twenty seven* countries, including Venezuela, Zambia, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Chile, Australia and Singapore.

After his first season as Dr. Who, Jon Pertwee went for a holiday in Morocco. As he was driving along in his car, a Moroccan policeman stopped him. Jon Pertwee quickly produced his driving licence, and wondered if he had committed a Moroccan-style driving offence. But he hadn't! The policeman waved the actor's driving licence aside as he peered inside the car. Then he grinned broadly and said in French: "Ah, it is the Dr. Who, is it not?"

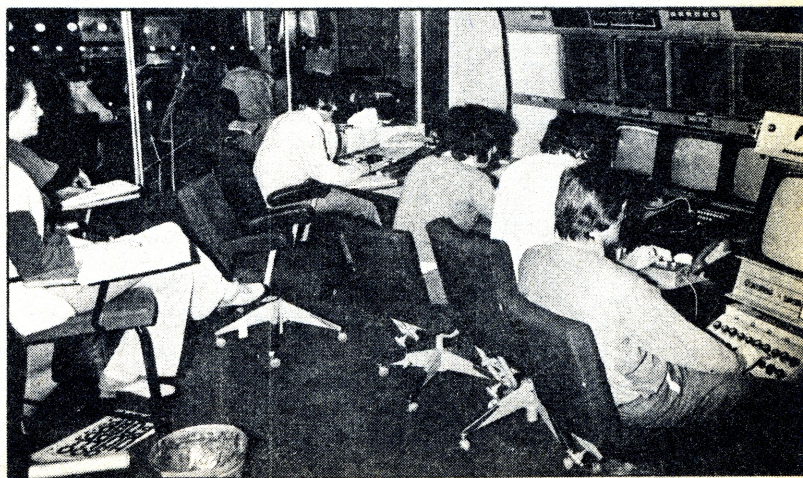
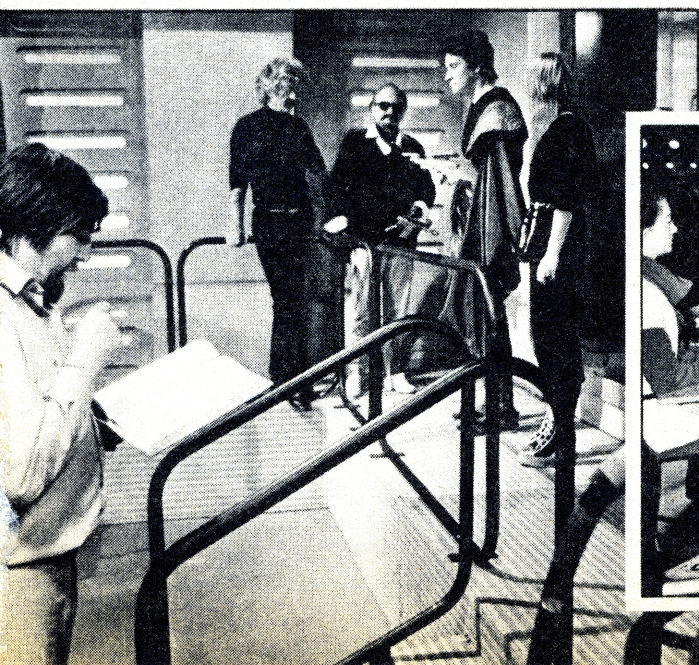
Dr. Who is indeed a strange name—but it came about in the simplest possible way. The first-ever thoughts on Dr. Who for a series were on the lines of a hero who could move about in both Time and Space. Someone was needed who could go *back* into the past and *forward* into the future—not only on Earth, but anywhere in the Universe. And this, in turn, meant he had to have some kind of vehicle—such as a spaceship! But that was too *ordinary*! So the TARDIS was invented. The TARDIS stands for Time And Relative Dimensions In Space. The next question was what should it look like? One thing was certain—it would have to change in appearance to conform to whatever surroundings it landed in. So, as the TARDIS was to visit London for its first trip, why not make it look like a London police box. But wouldn't it be

*(Below) This ailing Dalek has had one duel too many with the intrepid doctor. So now it's getting some expert attention from an assistant in the BBC's Special Effects Department—the repaired Dalek will soon be in action again.*



*(Left) Director Paul Bernard studies a script whilst Jon Pertwee, Katy Manning, Roger Delgado—and a Draconian—confer in the background!*

*(Below) The main control console where everyone keeps up to date with the rehearsals on the set—it's a room full of complicated equipment that only experts know how to use.*



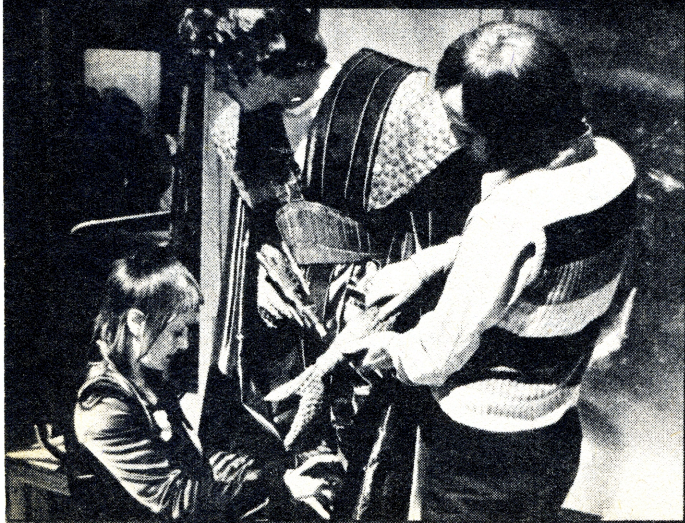




(Above) Sculptor John Friedlander puts the finishing touches to one of his own creations—the mask of a Draconian. Inset: John poses with three of the many masks he has made. Recognise them?

(Below) Actor Bill Wilde gets a helping hand from a wardrobe lady and a dresser before going on set!

(Below, right) A make-up expert puts the finishing touches of eye shadow on to the actor's face—and then helps him on with his Draconian mask—the actor has been transformed into a startlingly realistic monster.



amusing if something went wrong—so that the TARDIS never changed again? That would mean that *wherever* it landed it would still look like a London police box. This was agreed, and the TARDIS has remained with its flashing blue light on top ever since. Then came the most important part of all—the *name* of the hero!

Again, one thing was certain . . . if he did have a name it would have to be Doctor something or other. Doctor who . . . ? Yes, *that* was it—*Dr. Who!* And now, nearly ten years later, the programme is still running. But though the gripping *Doctor Who* stories portrayed on your screens are fascinating, there is another side to the programme which is equally intriguing! It is the story of the army of highly-skilled men and women who make the series possible. They are the actors, technicians, make-up people, wardrobe people, dressers, set designers, visual effects experts and many others.

To begin with, a television studio is a large room—which is filled with experts and equipment. Some TV studios are as big as football pitches. And it is in this huge room that the sets are built, mainly all round the walls to allow a big space in the middle so that cameras can move about freely. A set might be a workshop, an office or the inside of the TARDIS. Sets usually have only three walls. The cameras then "look" into the set where the fourth wall should have been!

The actors themselves are a tough breed of dedicated performers who have to work very hard. Days and days of location filming (there is lots of outside action in *Doctor Who*), and long, arduous hours spent inside a television studio is not an easy life!

The actual part of Dr. Who has been played by three actors since the programme began in 1963, and the first was William Hartnell who played it for over three years. Letters still arrive at his home addressed to "Dr. Who"!

The second doctor was Patrick Troughton, and





he, too, played the part for three years. He described his time as the doctor as the happiest three years in his twenty seven as an actor!

The third doctor, Jon Pertwee, is the current one—and he, too, enjoys the role immensely.

Besides actors, camera crews and technicians are also needed to produce an episode of **Doctor Who**.

They all play their respective parts as efficiently as possible. Like most other jobs, if mistakes are made, valuable time will be lost—and that costs money. And, believe it or not, money is a subject which is taken very seriously by TV people—especially the producer. All the money which is paid to the BBC in TV licences adds up to millions of pounds. But the BBC produce hundreds of programmes each year—and these all have to be paid for out of the money received for licences. So **Doctor Who's** producer Barry Letts, receives a certain budget each year, from which he has to pay all the costs. And there are plenty of them! The hire of the studio alone amounts to over £2,000 per day!

There are usually four cameras to film **Doctor Who** in the studio and each of these is linked by a cable to a small television screen—or monitor in the director's control room. This is where the director sits and watches what each separate camera is "looking at".

But perhaps the most exciting aspects of the **Doctor Who** stories have been the wide and varied

collections of beings from other planets—or even distant solar systems—the *monsters*!

The story behind the monsters is as fascinating as the appearance of the creatures themselves. The Ogrons, Sea Monsters and Draconians have looked so startling and realistic, that they might actually have *come* from another planet. But, of course, they didn't! They were actors wearing specially-designed costumes which have been made by experts.

A *monster* really begins with the scriptwriter. He thinks of a good storyline, then talks over his idea of the relevant monster with the producer, Barry Letts, and the manager of the Visual Effects Department, Jack Kine. Then sketches are made to interpret what everyone thinks the monster *should* look like.

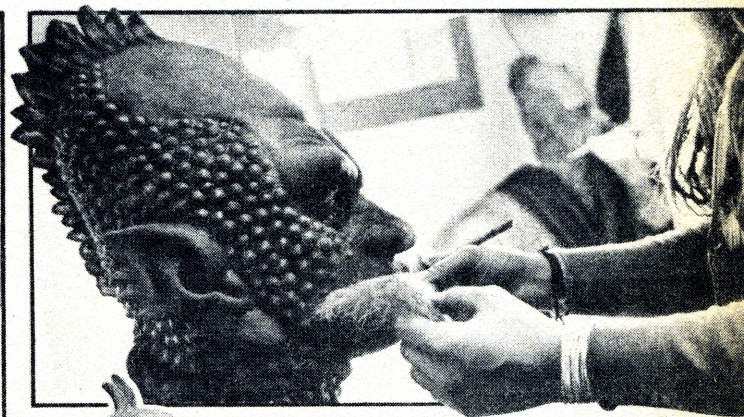
Sculptor John Friedlander works in the BBC's Visual Effects Department and he's been directly responsible for the faces of three monsters: the Ogrons, the Sea Monsters and the Draconians. Using clay, his talented hands model the sketches which are shown to him. When he has "created" the face of the monster, moulds are made in rubber and production of monsters on a large scale can begin!

John has worked for the BBC for thirteen years and enjoys his job—only part of which concerns making monsters!

Other types of monsters aren't also what they appear to be on your screens. You may well see



(Above) After spending half an hour in the make-up room, Bill Wilde (who plays a Draconian spaceship captain), is almost ready to go before the cameras! The make-up assistant is one of an army of helpers to make the Draconian possible.



(Above) Now it's just the beard to fix! It is important in any make-up operation that the actor's mouth remains free—allowing him to speak easily!

(Left) Finished at last! Almost looks like a human, doesn't he?



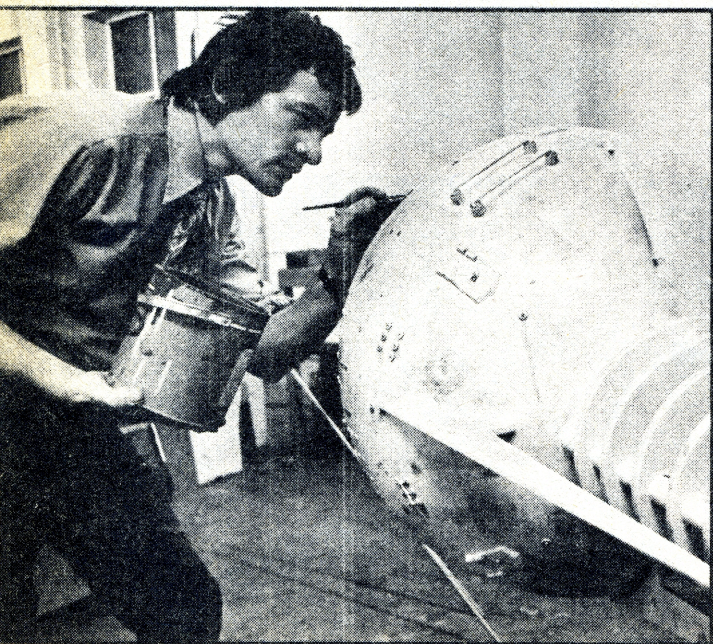
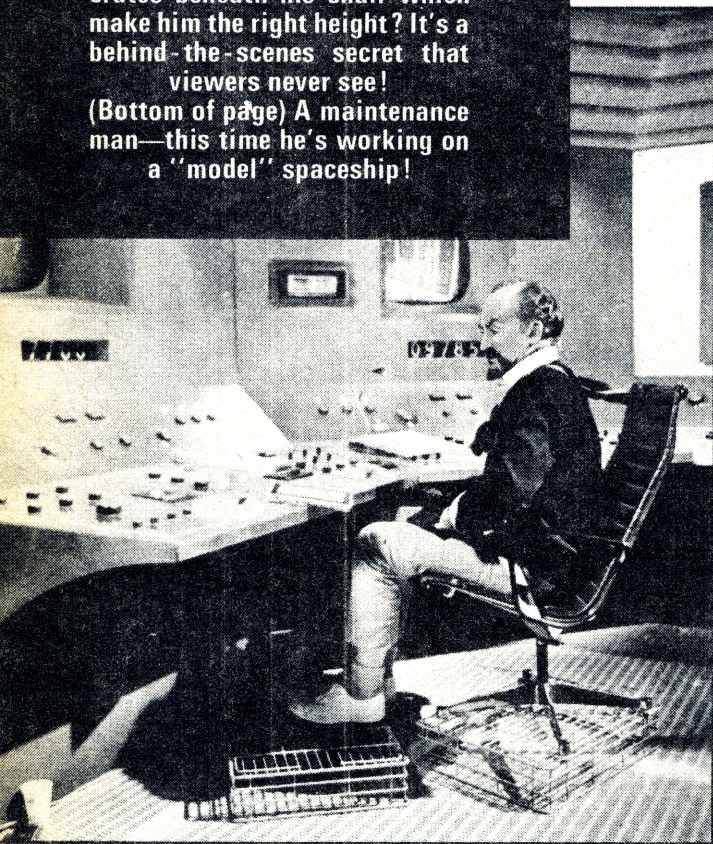
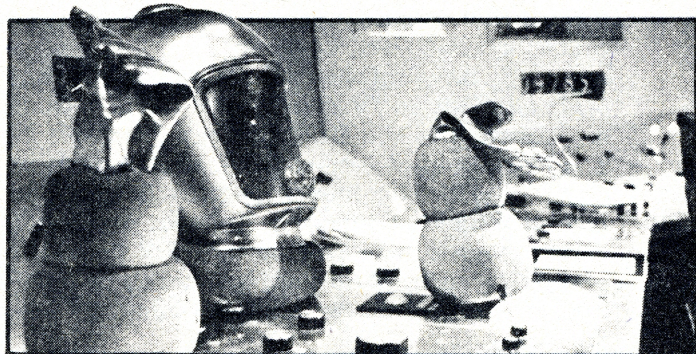
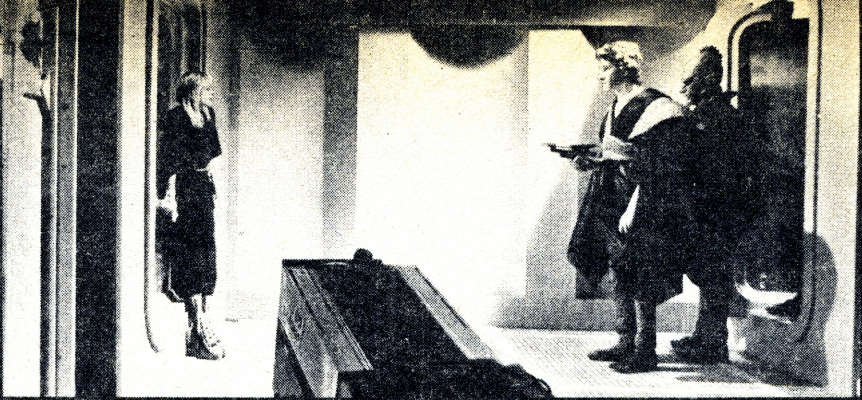


(Right) Jo Grant ponders her fate as she is faced by two Draconians during a dress rehearsal.

(Below, right) Space mask and gloves lie ready on the flight deck of a spaceship.

(Below) Actor Roger Delgado sits before the console of the spaceship. Notice the metal crates beneath his chair which make him the right height? It's a behind-the-scenes secret that viewers never see!

(Bottom of page) A maintenance man—this time he's working on a "model" spaceship!



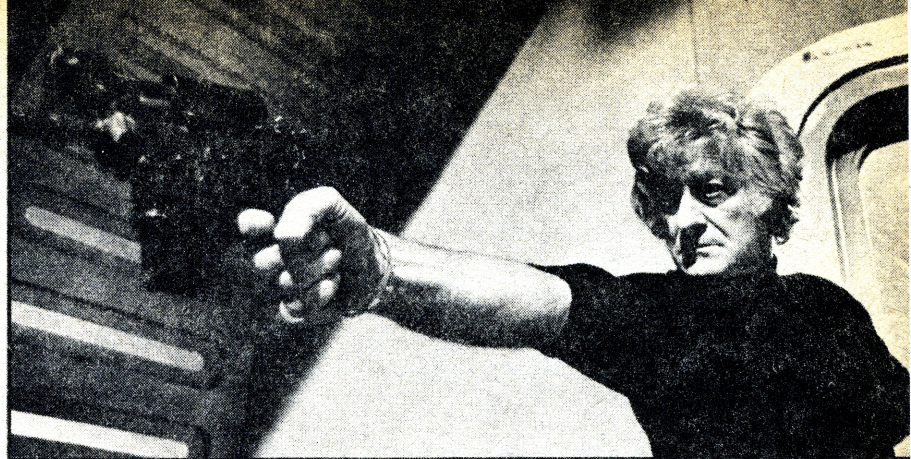
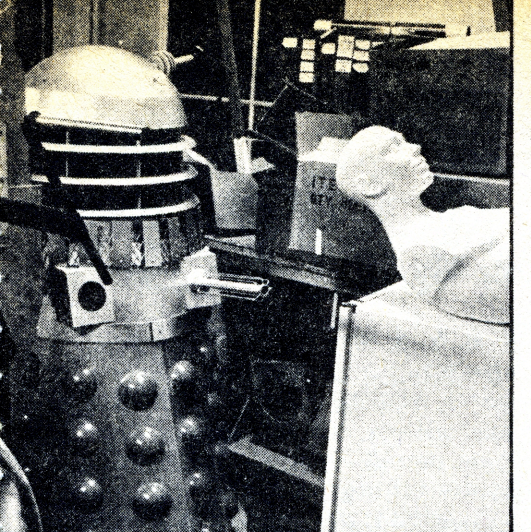
one clank from the shadows, eyes flashing, ray gun blazing, advancing menacingly towards the doctor and Jo. What you don't see is the man from the Visual Effects Department, trailing behind the monster, turning on and off those flashing eyes. Nor do you see the hard-working actor who is inside the heavy costume of the alarming invader from space.

Many other interesting duties are also carried out inside the Effects Department. For instance, when a Dalek literally runs out of steam, or gets damaged, it is repaired there. The Daleks can be seen in the Effects Dept. in a manner they have never been seen on the screen before. Some stand intact—others are in pieces. With its top part removed, a Dalek looks rather like a large pepper-pot. But these strange machines had to be designed this way for obvious reasons. For, as you've probably guessed, the Daleks are not really propelled by a super-intelligent brain. They are manoeuvred around the studio by an actor who sits *inside* the machine casing!

Luckily, all Daleks, like pieces of furniture, are fitted with well-oiled castors, so that they can move about easily. Even so, it is hard work for an actor who may have to spend a couple of hours at a time inside a Dalek. But the Daleks must be well-treated by the actors—they cost over £300 each to make!

But even when an actor is dressed in his monster costume and mask, he is still not quite ready to go before the cameras. He must first pay a visit to the make-up department. Here, his eyes will be shaded to match the hues of his costume. His chin, too, will be coloured for the same reason. It depends on the design of the mask as to how much make-up is needed—but in most cases, designs allow an actor's mouth to remain free—to enable





(Above) A Dalek as it is seldom seen—standing idly amidst bits and pieces in a cluttered corner of the Effects Studio. (Right) The doctor “keeps his eye in” with some mock target practice—and then it’s back into his space costume!

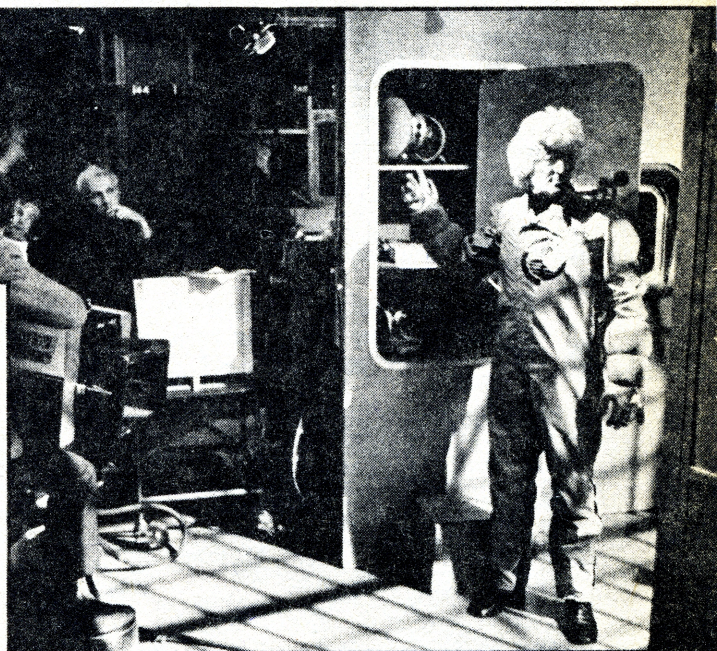
him to speak clearly. The make-up assistants are also responsible for other finishing touches to the monster, which, might require a beard, for instance—or even specially long eyelashes!

At last, the finished creature is ready. But still a close watch is kept on him—this time by his *dresser*, who is responsible for the immaculate appearance of the monster. If the actor doesn’t make a smart enough monster, it is up to the dresser to do something about it!

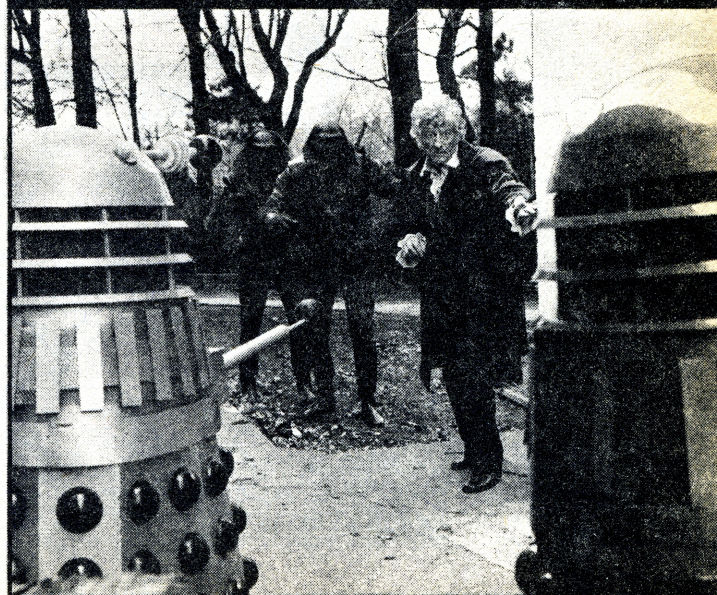
Nearly all the ***Doctor Who*** stories are based on the fact that our increasing scientific progress on Earth attracts the interest of alien life forms in space. For example, every day thousands of television stations all over the world are sending out their programmes. Since television signals go in almost straight lines and do not follow the curvature of the Earth, they travel into space—possibly for ever. That means that it is quite possible that somewhere in outer space, eight light years away, some strange creature is watching the first episode of ***Doctor Who***, as you are reading this feature! Incredible, yes! But *not impossible!*

It is quite an experience to see a ***Doctor Who*** episode being filmed inside the studio. When a break is called in the filming it is common to see monsters with human heads (it is more comfortable without their masks) enjoying a quick “cuppa” with each other! Sometimes Jon Pertwee joins them—and there’s the doctor having a friendly chat with his greatest enemies! But the breaks don’t last long! A few minutes later, the doctor and the monsters are back at work in front of the cameras—busy making another episode of ***Doctor Who***—the programme regularly watched by over ten million viewers each week!

**THE END**



(Below) Surrounded! Things don’t look too good for Dr. Who, played by Jon Pertwee, as the evil Ogrons and the legendary Daleks move in. But breathe easily—the doctor lived on!



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